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The situation in Afghanistan

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The situation in Afghanistan

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 61/18 of 28 November 2006 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Council on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular resoiutions 1659 (2006) of 15 February 2006, 1746 (2007) of 23 March 2007 and 1776 (2007) of 19 September 2007, as well as the statement by the President of the Council on 17 July 2007,[1]

Expressing its strong commitment to the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact and the annexes thereto,[2] which provide the framework for the partnership between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community based on the desire of both for Afghanistan to progressively assume responsibility for its own development and security, and stressing the need for sustained international efforts to support Afghanistan to achieve this end,

Reaffirming its strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

[1] S/PRST/2007/27.
[2] S/2006/90, annex.

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Recognizing once again the interconnected nature of the challenges in Afghanistan, reaffirming that sustainable progress on security, governance and development, as well as the cross-cutting theme of counter-narcotics, is mutually reinforcing, and welcoming the continuing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to address these challenges in a coherent manner,

Reiterating the urgent need to tackle the challenges in Afghanistan, in particular the increased violent criminal and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, illegally armed groups and those involved in the narcotics trade, in particular in the south and east, and the development of Afghan Government institutions, including at the subnational level, the strengthening of the rule of law, the acceleration of justice sector reform, the promotion of national reconciliation, without prejudice to the fulfilment of the measures introduced by the Security Council in its resolution 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999 and other relevant resolutions, and an Afghan-led transitional justice process, the safe and voluntary return of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons in an orderly and dignified manner, the promotion and protection of human rights and the advancement of economic and social development,

Condemning, in this context, attacks against both Afghan and foreign nationals committed to supporting the consolidation of peace, stability and development in Afghanistan, in particular United Nations and diplomatic staff, national and international humanitarian and development personnel, Afghan National Security Forces, the International Security Assistance Force, as well as the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, and noting with concern that the lack of security is causing some organizations to cease or curtail their humanitarian and development work in some parts of Afghanistan,

Recognizing the progress achieved, while nonetheless remaining deeply concerned about the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and explosive remnants of war, which constitute a great danger for the population and a major obstacle for the resumption of economic activities and for recovery and reconstruction efforts,

Noting that, despite improvements in building the security sector, increased terrorist attacks caused by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups, in particular in the south and east of Afghanistan, the lack of security caused by criminal activity, terrorism and the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs, and the increasingly strong nexus between the drug trade and the terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups remain a serious challenge, threatening the democratic process as well as reconstruction and economic development,

Noting also that the responsibility for providing security and law and order throughout the country resides with the Government of Afghanistan supported by the Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition, recognizing the institutional progress achieved in this respect and the continued coordination between the Assistance Force and the coalition, deeply concerned about the recent increase in violence, and stressing the importance of further extending central government authority, including the presence of Afghan security forces, to all provinces of Afghanistan,

Welcoming the completion of the Assistance Force expansion throughout Afghanistan, and noting, in the context of the comprehensive approach, the synergies in the objectives of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and of the Assistance Force,

Commending the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, the Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition for their efforts to improve security conditions in Afghanistan,

Acknowledging, in this context, that the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police require additional support to enhance their capability and professionalism, including through the provision of increased training and more modern equipment and welcoming in this regard the deployment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan,

Stressing that regional cooperation constitutes an effective means to promote security and development in Afghanistan,

Welcoming in this regard recent initiatives to reinforce regional cooperation, including the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Afghanistan Contact Group,

Welcoming also the entry of Afghanistan into the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, at the summit meeting of the Association, held in New Delhi on 3 and 4 April 2007, as an opportunity to further promote regional economic cooperation for development,

Reaffirming its continued support for the spirit and the provisions of the Bonn Agreement of 5 December 2001,[3] of the Berlin Declaration, including the annexes thereto, of 1 April 2004[4] and of the Afghanistan Compact of 31 January 2006, and pledging its continued support, after the successful completion of the political transition, to the Government and people of Afghanistan as they rebuild their country, strengthen the foundations of a constitutional democracy and resume their rightful place in the community of nations,

Noting the importance of the national Government being representative of the ethnic diversity of the country and ensuring also the full and equal participation of women,

Welcoming recent steps to enhance Afghan and international commitment to justice sector reform as outlined at the Conference on the Rule of Law in Afghanistan, held in Rome on 2 and 3 July 2007,

Recalling the guarantee of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all Afghans in the Constitution as a significant step towards an improved situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular for women and children, and expressing its concern over the harmful consequences of violent and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups on the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to guarantee the rule of law,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) of 26 July 2005 on children and armed conflict,

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[3] Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions (see S/2001/1154).

[4] Available from www.unama.afg.org.

Expressing its concern about all civilian casualties, and reiterating its call for all feasible steps to be taken to ensure the protection of civilian lives and for international humanitarian and human rights law to be upheld,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security, and applauding the progress achieved in the empowerment of women in Afghan politics as historic milestones in the political process, which will help to consolidate durable peace and national stability in Afghanistan, while noting the need to promote the empowerment of women also at the provincial level,

Noting with concern reports of continued violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law and violent or discriminatory practices including "honour killings" in certain parts of the country, particularly targeting women and girls, and stressing the need for adherence to international standards of tolerance and religious freedom and for judicial investigation and prosecution of relevant cases,

Condemning recent cases of abducting and even killing of journalists and other civilians by terrorist and extremist groups,

Encouraging the completion of the interim Afghanistan National Development Strategy[5] by early 2008 as well as further efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to achieve the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming the outcome of the Regional Economic Cooperation Conferences, held in Kabul on 4 and 5 December 2005 and in New Delhi on 18 and 19 November 2006, as well as of the Enabling Environment Conference, held in Kabul on 4 and 5 June 2007, and of the seventeenth Ministerial Meeting of the Economic Cooperation Organization held in Herat, Afghanistan, from 17 to 20 October 2007, and welcoming also Pakistan's offer to host the next Regional Economic Cooperation Conference in early 2008,

Welcoming further the continuing and growing ownership of the rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts by the Government of Afghanistan, and emphasizing the crucial need to achieve ownership in all fields of governance and to improve institutional capabilities, including at the provincial level, in order to use aid more effectively,

Expressing its appreciation for the humanitarian assistance work of the international community in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, recognizing the necessity of further addressing the slow pace of change in the living conditions of the Afghan people, and noting the need to strengthen and support the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to deliver basic social services, in particular education and public health services, and to promote development,

Welcoming the continuous return of refugees and internally displaced persons, in a voluntary and sustainable manner, while noting with concern that conditions in parts of Afghanistan are not yet conducive to safe and sustainable returns to some places of origin,

Recognizing that underdevelopment and lack of capacity increase the vulnerability of Afghanistan to natural disasters and to harsh climate conditions,

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[5] S/2006/105, annex.

Expressing its appreciation for the work of the provincial reconstruction teams and of the executive steering committee,

Deeply concerned about the increased cultivation and production of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan as well as the drug trafficking and the increasingly strong nexus between the drug trade and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups, which are undermining stability and security as well as the political and economic reconstruction of Afghanistan and has dangerous repercussions in the region and far beyond, and commending the reaffirmed commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to rid the country of this pernicious production and trade, including by decisive law enforcement measures,

Recalling the updated National Drug Control Strategy,[6] and recognizing that the social and economic development of Afghanistan, specifically the development of alternative gainful and sustainable livelihoods in the formal productive sector, is an important element of the successful implementation of the Strategy and depends to a large extent on enhanced international cooperation with the Government of Afghanistan,

Expressing its appreciation and strong support for the central and impartial role that the Secretary-General and his Special Representative continue to play in the consolidation of peace and stability in Afghanistan, stressing the central role of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan in promoting a more coherent international engagement to ensure a seamless transition, under Afghan leadership, from humanitarian relief to recovery and reconstruction, and also stressing the need for further sustained cooperation, coordination and mutual support between the international community and the Government of Afghanistan,

Welcoming the work of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board established by the Afghanistan Compact as an instrument to further improve coordination between the Government of Afghanistan and its international partners and to monitor the implementation of all benchmarks,

Recognizing the need for a continued strong international commitment to humanitarian assistance and for programmes, under the ownership of the Government of Afghanistan, of recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, and expressing, at the same time, its appreciation to the United Nations system and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations whose international and local staff continue to respond positively to the humanitarian, transition and development needs of Afghanistan despite increasing security concerns and difficulties of access in certain areas,

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General[7] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Strongly condemns* the upsurge of violence, including the rising trend of suicide attacks, in Afghanistan, in particular in the southern and eastern parts, owing to the increased violent and terrorist activity by the Taliban, Al-Qaida, other extremist groups and those involved in the narcotics trade, which has resulted in increased casualties among Afghan civilians, Afghan National Security Forces, the International Security Assistance Force and the Operation Enduring Freedom

[6] S/2006/106, annex.

[7] A/62/345-S/2007/555.

coalition, as well as among the personnel of Afghan and international aid agencies and all other humanitarian workers;

3. *Stresses* the importance of the provision of sufficient security, welcomes the presence of the Assistance Force throughout Afghanistan, and calls upon Member States to continue contributing personnel, equipment and other resources to the Assistance Force and to further develop the provincial reconstruction teams in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan;

4. *Expresses its appreciation* for the work of the Assistance Mission as mandated by the Security Council in its resolution 1746 (2007), and stresses the continued importance of the central and impartial role played by the Assistance Mission in promoting and coordinating a more coherent international engagement, welcomes the extension of its presence in additional provinces, which thus ensures that the United Nations fulfils its essential coordinating role, and encourages the Assistance Mission to consolidate its presence and to continue its expansion throughout the country, in particular in the south, security conditions permitting;

5. *Calls upon* the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, including through the Operation Enduring Freedom coalition and the Assistance Force, in accordance with their respective designated responsibilities, to continue to address the threat to the security and stability of Afghanistan posed by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups as well as by criminal violence, in particular violence involving the drug trade;

6. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan and local authorities to take all possible steps to ensure the safe and unhindered access of United Nations, development and humanitarian personnel to all affected populations;

7. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence and intimidation, regrets the loss of life and physical harm, and urges the Government of Afghanistan and local authorities to make every effort, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/123 of 15 December 2005, to bring to justice the perpetrators of attacks, to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations, development and humanitarian personnel and to protect the property of the United Nations and of development or humanitarian organizations;

8. *Stresses* the importance of advancing the full implementation of the programme of disbandment of illegal armed groups throughout the country under Afghan ownership, while ensuring coordination and coherence with other relevant efforts, including security sector reform, community development, counter-narcotics, district-level development and Afghan-led initiatives to ensure that entities and individuals do not illegally participate in the political process, in accordance with adopted laws and regulations in Afghanistan, and calls for adequate support in order for the Ministry of Interior to increasingly assume its leading role in implementing the programme of disbandment of illegal armed groups;

9. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Conference on Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups for the Stabilization of Afghanistan: Coordination with Police Reform, held in Tokyo on 21 June 2007;[8]

[8] See A/61/993-S/2007/416.

10. *Also welcomes*, in this context, the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan to stand firm on the disbandment of illegal armed groups and to work actively at national, provincial and local levels to advance this commitment;

11. *Further welcomes* the development of the new professional Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police, calls for accelerated efforts to modernize and strengthen both institutions and related Government departments, and welcomes in this regard the deployment of the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan in 2007;

12. *Welcomes* the completion of the disarmament and demobilization of child soldiers in the Afghan Military Forces, stresses the importance of the reintegration of child soldiers and of care for other children affected by war, commends the Government of Afghanistan for its efforts in this regard, and encourages it to continue efforts in cooperation with the United Nations, including with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and with other international partners;

13. *Expresses its concern* about the ongoing recruitment and use of child soldiers by illegal armed and terrorist groups in Afghanistan, reiterates the importance of implementing Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) on children and armed conflict, and of ending the use of children contrary to international law, welcomes efforts by the Government of Afghanistan in this regard, and also welcomes the accession by Afghanistan to the Convention on the Rights of the Child[9] and the two optional protocols thereto,[10] as well as commitments made by the Government at the Conference to "Free Children from War", held in Paris on 5 and 6 February 2007;

14. *Welcomes* the progress achieved through the Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan, and supports the Government of Afghanistan in its efforts to meet its responsibilities under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction,[11] in line with the Millennium Development Goals, to cooperate fully with the Mine Action Programme, coordinated by the United Nations, and to eliminate all known or new stocks of anti-personnel landmines;

15. *Recognizes* the challenges following secure and fair elections and the establishment of democratic institutions as identified in the Afghanistan Compact,[2] and calls upon the international community to continue to provide sustained support;

16. *Welcomes* the steps taken by the Government of Afghanistan on justice sector reform, also welcomes the progress made in the creation of a fair and effective justice system as an important step towards the goal of strengthening the Government, providing security and ensuring the rule of law throughout the country, and urges the international community to continue to support the efforts of the Government in these areas in a coordinated manner, welcoming in this regard the outcome of the Conference on the Rule of Law in Afghanistan, held in Rome on 2 and 3 July 2007;

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[9] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[10] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531; and ibid., vol. 2173, No. 27531.

[11] Ibid., vol. 2056, No. 35597.

17. *Encourages* the Government of Afghanistan to finalize the national justice sector strategy and the national justice programme, and calls upon the international community to ensure the requisite support for justice sector reform, including honouring commitments made at the Rome Conference;

18. *Stresses once again* the need for further progress on a comprehensive judicial reform in Afghanistan, and urges the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to devote resources also to the reconstruction and reform of the prison sector in order to improve respect for the rule of law and human rights therein, while reducing physical and mental health risks to inmates;

19. *Calls for* the full respect of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without discrimination of any kind, including on the basis of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with obligations under the Afghan Constitution and international law;

20. *Continues to emphasize* the necessity of investigating allegations of current and past violations of human rights and of international humanitarian law, including violations committed against persons belonging to ethnic and religious minorities, as well as against women and girls, of facilitating the provision of efficient and effective remedies to the victims and of bringing the perpetrators to justice in accordance with international law;

21. *Stresses* the need to ensure respect for the right to freedom of expression and the right to freedom of thought, conscience or belief, while noting with concern recent attempts to limit freedom of expression and to intimidate journalists;

22. *Notes with concern* the negative impact of the security situation, in particular terrorist and violent activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and extremist groups, on the enjoyment of human rights, and calls for all parties to fully respect human rights and international humanitarian law throughout Afghanistan and, with the assistance of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and of the Assistance Mission, to fully implement the human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution, including those regarding the full enjoyment by women of their human rights, and commends the commitment of the Government of Afghanistan in this respect;

23. *Reiterates* the important role of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, stresses the need to expand its range of operation in all parts of Afghanistan in accordance with the Afghan Constitution, calls for the full implementation by the Government of Afghanistan of the Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation, without prejudice to the implementation of measures introduced by the Security Council in its resolution 1267 (1999) and other relevant resolutions, and stresses the importance of judicial accountability of human rights offenders in accordance with national and international law;

24. *Recalls* Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, commends the efforts of the Government of Afghanistan to mainstream gender issues and to protect and promote the equal rights of women and men as guaranteed, inter alia, by virtue of its ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[12] and by the Afghan

[12] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.

Constitution, and reiterates the continued importance of the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of Afghan life;

25. *Welcomes* the finalization of the National Action Plan for Women in Afghanistan and the significant efforts by the Government of Afghanistan to counter discrimination, urges the Government to actively involve all elements of Afghan society, in particular women, in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation, recovery and reconstruction programmes, and encourages the collection and use of statistical data on a sex-disaggregated basis to provide information on gender-based violence and accurately track the progress of the full integration of women into the political, economic and social life of Afghanistan;

26. *Recognizes* the significant progress achieved on gender equality in Afghanistan in recent years, and strongly condemns incidents of discrimination and violence against women and girls, including women activists, in Afghanistan, wherever they occur;

27. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Government of Afghanistan of the National Plan of Action on Combating Child Trafficking, also welcomes initiatives to pass legislation on human trafficking guided by the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[13] and stresses the importance of considering becoming a party to the Protocol;

28. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to continue to effectively reform the public administration sector in order to implement the rule of law and to ensure good governance and accountability at both national and local levels, and stresses the importance of meeting the respective benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact, with the support of the international community;

29. *Welcomes* the formal establishment of the Senior Appointments Panel and the finalization of the revised Public Administration Reform framework, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan to ensure appointment of officials as required by the Afghanistan Compact;

30. *Encourages* the international community, including all donor nations, to assist the Government of Afghanistan in making capacity-building and human resources development a cross-cutting priority;

31. *Encourages* the Government of Afghanistan to vigorously pursue its efforts to establish a more effective, accountable and transparent administration at national, provincial and local levels of Government leading the fight against corruption in accordance with the Afghanistan Compact, and notes with concern the effects of corruption with regard to security, good governance, combating the narcotics industry and economic development;

32. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to address, with the assistance of the international community, the question of claims for land property through a comprehensive land titling programme, including formal registration of all property and improved security of property rights, and welcomes the steps already taken by the Government in this regard;

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[13] Resolution 55/25, annex II.

33. *Notes* the progress achieved in the elaboration of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy,[5] underlines the need to finalize the Strategy by early 2008, and urges the international community actively to support this process;

34. *Urgently appeals* to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, in close coordination with the Government of Afghanistan and in accordance with its national development strategy, all possible and necessary humanitarian, recovery, reconstruction, financial, technical and material assistance for Afghanistan;

35. *Urges* the international community, in accordance with the Afghanistan Compact, to increase the proportion of donor assistance channelled directly to the core budget, as agreed bilaterally between the Government of Afghanistan and each donor, as well as through other more predictable core budget funding modalities in which the Government participates, such as the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, the Law and Order Trust Fund and the Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund;

36. *Invites* all States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations providing assistance to Afghanistan to focus on institution-building in a coordinated manner and to ensure that such work complements and contributes to the development of an economy characterized by sound macroeconomic policies, the development of a financial sector that provides services, inter alia, to microenterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises and households, transparent business regulations and accountability;

37. *Encourages* the international community to support the local economy as a measure for long-term stability and countering narcotics and, in this respect, to explore possibilities for enhancing local procurement;

38. *Calls for* strengthening the process of regional economic cooperation, including measures to facilitate regional trade, to increase foreign investments and to develop infrastructure, noting Afghanistan's historic role as a land bridge in Asia;

39. *Reiterates* the necessity of providing Afghan children with educational and health facilities in all parts of the country, welcomes progress achieved in the sector of public education, and recalls the National Education Strategic Plan as a promising basis for further achievements;

40. *Recognizes* the special needs of girls, strongly condemns terrorist attacks on education facilities, and encourages the Government of Afghanistan, with the assistance of the international community, to expand these facilities, to train professional staff and to promote full and equal access to them by all members of Afghan society, including in remote areas;

41. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, acknowledging the huge burden they have so far shouldered in this regard, and reminds them of their obligations under international refugee law with respect to the protection of refugees, the principle of voluntary return and the right to seek asylum and to allow international access for their protection and care;

42. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan, acting with the support of the international community, to continue and strengthen its efforts to create the conditions for the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return and reintegration of the remaining Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons;

43. *Welcomes* in this regard the tripartite agreements between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Government of Afghanistan and the Governments of Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran, respectively;

44. *Calls for* the provision of continued international assistance to the large numbers of Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons to facilitate their voluntary, safe, dignified and orderly return and sustainable reintegration into society so as to contribute to the stability of the entire country;

45. *Expresses concern* about the second successive increase in the cultivation of opium, notes that opium cultivation, the related drug production and trafficking and the increasingly strong nexus between drug trade and terrorist activities by the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups, pose a serious threat to security, the rule of law and development in Afghanistan, urges the Government of Afghanistan, supported by the international community, to work to mainstream counter-narcotics throughout all the national programmes and ensure that counter-narcotics is a fundamental part of the comprehensive approach, commends the efforts of the Government in this regard, and urges it to increase its efforts against opium cultivation and drug trafficking, with the support of the international community;

46. *Welcomes* the efforts to date of the Government of Afghanistan to carry out the National Drug Control Strategy,[6] and urges the Government and the international community to take decisive action, in particular to stop the processing and trade in drugs, by pursuing the concrete steps set out in the Strategy and in the Afghanistan Compact and through initiatives such as the good performers initiative established to provide incentives for governors to reduce cultivation in their provinces;

47. *Calls upon* the international community to assist the Government of Afghanistan in carrying out its National Drug Control Strategy, aimed at eliminating the cultivation, production, trafficking in and consumption of illicit drugs, including through increased support for Afghan law enforcement and criminal justice agencies, agricultural and rural development, demand reduction, the elimination of illicit crops, increasing public awareness, building the capacity of drug control institutions and creating alternative livelihoods for farmers;

48. *Encourages* the international community to increasingly channel counter-narcotics funding through the Government of Afghanistan's Counter-Narcotics Trust Fund;

49. *Urges* the Government of Afghanistan to promote the development of sustainable livelihoods in the formal production sector as well as other sectors, and to improve access to reasonable and sustainable credit and financing in rural areas, thus improving substantially the lives, health and security of the people, particularly in rural areas;

50. *Supports* the fight against the illicit trafficking in drugs and precursors within Afghanistan and in neighbouring States and countries along trafficking routes, including increased cooperation among them to strengthen anti-narcotic controls to curb the drug flow;

51. *Recalls* the outcome of the Second Ministerial Conference on Drug Trafficking Routes from Afghanistan, organized by the Government of the Russian Federation in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, held

in Moscow from 26 to 28 June 2006,[14] within the framework of the Paris Pact initiative, and therefore calls upon States to strengthen international and regional cooperation to counter the increasing threat to the international community posed by the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs;

52. *Welcomes* recent initiatives to promote border management cooperation in drug control between Afghanistan and its neighbours;

53. *Stresses* the central and impartial role of the United Nations in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan by leading the efforts of the international community, and endorses the key principles for cooperation between the Government of Afghanistan and the international community as referred to in the Afghanistan Compact;

54. *Acknowledges* the central role played by the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board in facilitating and monitoring the implementation of the Afghanistan Compact, stresses the role of the Board to support Afghanistan by, inter alia, coordinating international assistance and reconstruction programmes, and welcomes further efforts to provide appropriate high-level political guidance and promote a more coherent international engagement;

55. *Commends* the continuing efforts of the signatories of the Kabul Declaration on Good-neighbourly Relations of 22 December 2002[15] to implement their commitments under the Declaration, and furthermore calls upon all other States to respect and support the implementation of those provisions and to promote regional stability;

56. *Welcomes* efforts by the Governments of Afghanistan and its neighbouring partners to foster trust and cooperation with each other, and looks forward, where appropriate, to increasing cooperation between Afghanistan and all its neighbouring and regional partners against the Taliban, Al-Qaida and other extremist groups and in promoting peace and prosperity in Afghanistan, in the region and beyond;

57. *Also welcomes* the holding of the Afghan-Pakistani Joint Peace Jirga in Kabul, from 9 to 12 August 2007 and the collective determination expressed at the Jirga to bring sustainable peace to the region, including by addressing the terrorist threat;

58. *Further welcomes* the Ankara Declaration issued following the Trilateral Summit of Afghanistan, Pakistan and Turkey, held in Ankara on 29 and 30 April 2007,[16] and expresses its support to the continuation of this process;

59. *Welcomes* the joint statement adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of Eight Industrialized Countries with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan and Pakistan at their meeting in Potsdam, Germany, on 30 May 2007 on the promotion of cooperation and assistance through mutual consultation and agreement, including follow-up projects in areas such as refugees repatriation and economic development;

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[14] See A/61/208-S/2006/598, annex.

[15] S/2002/1416, annex.

[16] A/61/898-S/2007/266, annex.

60. *Appreciates* the efforts of the members of the Tripartite Commission, namely Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United States of America and Assistance Force, to continue to address cross-border activities and to broaden its cooperation, welcomes the participation of the Assistance Force, and calls upon the international community to support those efforts;

61. *Emphasizes* the need to maintain, strengthen and review civil-military relations among international actors, as appropriate, at all levels in order to ensure complementarity of action based on the different mandates and comparative advantages of the humanitarian, development, law enforcement and military actors present in Afghanistan, bearing in mind the central and impartial coordinating role of the United Nations;

62. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every six months during its sixty-second session on developments in Afghanistan, as well as on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

63. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan".